
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Santa Clara Unit

CONTACT: Jim Rajskup
Battalion Chief
408-778-8620

RELEASE
DATE: June 16, 2014

FIRE SEASON BEGINS

DOORYARD BURNING SUSPENDED

FIRE PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Cautioned Urged with Increasing Wildfire Threat in Bay Area

Morgan Hill – The Santa Clara Unit of **CAL FIRE** (The California Department of Forestry of and Fire Protection) is declaring the start of Fire Season May 1, 2014. We would like to remind the public that with the increased risk of wildfire, everyone needs to be prepared. In just the past week CAL FIRE has seen significant increase in fire activity due to extremely dry conditions.

On May 1, 2014 the **CAL FIRE** Santa Clara Unit suspend all permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) under contract to CAL FIRE in the counties of Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, and areas west of I-5 in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

California has experienced an unusually dry winter and spring. Temperatures will be increasing and humidity will be decreasing, drying out the lighter fuels, such as grass, which increases the risk of wildfires.

Although CAL FIRE is prepared all year long for all types of emergencies, it is preparing for the increased threat of wildfire this year. CAL FIRE has been hiring its seasonal staff four to six weeks earlier than normal.

CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit reminds everyone to ensure they have maintained 100 feet of

Defensible Space around all structures. Defensible Space inspections in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) lands are currently being conducted for compliance of the 100 foot Defensible Space law.

“BE READY” for wildfire, by having your defensible space around your home today.

Visit CAL FIRE’s web site at www.fire.ca.gov or www.readyforwildfire.org for more information or call 408-778-2121.

Derek J. Witmer
Santa Clara Unit Chief

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